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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/666,836 09/21/00 ANDERSON

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EXAMINER

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ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1655

DATE MAILED:

06/28/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/666,836

Applicant(s)

ANDERSON ET AL.

Examiner

Frank W Lu

Art Unit

1655

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 June 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 22, 44, 45, 82-84, and 92 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 22, 44, 45, and 82 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 83, 84, and 92 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 16) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 17) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5 and 7 20) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 1655

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restriction

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group IV, claims 83 and 84 in Paper No. 9 is acknowledged.

Priority

2. An application in which the benefits of an earlier application are desired must contain a specific reference to the prior application(s) in the first sentence of the specification (37 CFR 1.78). The examiner noticed that applicant did not claim the priority for the application of 09/571,274, filed on May 16, 2000.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The listing of references in the specification is not a proper information disclosure statement. 37 CFR 1.98(b) requires a list of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office, and MPEP § 609 A(1) states, "the list may not be incorporated into the specification but must be submitted in a separate paper." Therefore, unless the references have been cited by the examiner on form PTO-892, they have not been considered.

Drawings

4. The drawings are objected to for reasons as stated on FORM PTO-948 (Rev. 8-98). Applicant is required to submit a proposed drawing correction in reply to this Office action.

Art Unit: 1655

However, formal correction of the noted defect can be deferred until the application is allowed by the examiner.

Specification

5. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the title of the invention should be moved from the abstract. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7. Claims 83, 84, and 92 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Note that claims 84 and 92 are dependent on claim 83.

8. Claim 83 is rejected as vague and indefinite over the phrase "extracting said genome from said concentrated microorganism to produce extracted nucleic acid" because it is unclear what it intended. For example, does this phrase mean the extraction of genomic DNA from said concentrated microorganism or mean something else?

9. Claim 92 is rejected as vague and rejected as vague and indefinite because it is unclear what it intended. For example, does this claim mean that steps (e) and (f) are performed prior to

Art Unit: 1655

step (c) of claim 83 or mean that steps (e) and (f) are performed after step (c) of claim 92 since it is routine to run digested DNA on a gel after DNA digestion?

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

10. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Art Unit: 1655

12. Claim 83 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Pitcher *et al.*, (Lett. Appl. Microbiol. 8, 151-156, 1989).

Pitcher *et al.*, teach rapid extraction of bacteria genomic DNA with guanidium thiocyanate. In this study, bacteria in broth culture at the end of the exponential growth phase ($\sim 4.8 \times 10^8$ cells/ml) were pelleted by centrifugation. The pullet was resuspended in 100 μ l of buffer, lysed with 0.5 ml of 5 M guanidium thiocyanate, 100 mM EDTA and 0.5% sarkosyl and then extracted with chloroform/2-pentanol in 1.5 ml Eppendorf tube. The purified genomic DNA was digested with different restriction enzymes and run in 0.8% agarose gel in order to observe the digested patterns of genomic DNA (see right column in page 151, left column in page 152, and Figure 2 in page 154). Although Pitcher *et al.*, did not directly show what kind of centrifuge tube was used to pellet bacteria in a broth culture, in the absence of convincing evidence to the contrary, the examiner considered that the centrifuge tube they used in bacteria concentration step was an Eppendorf tube due to small bacteria pellet (rice grain-sized, suggested a small starting volume) after centrifugation of bacteria culture described in this reference (see right column in page 151 and left column in page 152). The limitation in the centrifuge tube could be considered to be inherent to the reference taught by Pitcher *et al.*. Alternatively, based on small bacteria pellet (rice grain-sized) after centrifugation (suggested a small starting volume), one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would be motivated to optimize the experimental conditions (use ~ 1.5 ml of bacteria) in order to use an Eppendorf tube as a centrifugation tube because it has been routine in the laboratory to use an Eppendorf tube for pelleting a small volume of bacteria. Note that the Eppendorf tube owns all properties of the

Art Unit: 1655

centrifuge tube described in claim 83 and could be considered as an ultracentrifuge tube (the picture of Eppendorf tube can be found in a lot of company catalogues).

13. Claims 83 and 84 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Samadpour *et al.*, (J. Clin. Microbiology, 31, 3179-3183, 1993) in view of Pitcher *et al.*, (1989).

Samadpour *et al.*, teach molecular epidemiology of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 strains by bacteriophage lambda restriction fragment length polymorphism analysis. In this study, confluent bacterial cells in agar plates were scraped with several sweeps of a sterile flat-headed toothpick and were suspended in 0.8 ml of Tris buffer before DNA extraction. Genomic DNAs prepared from 168 isolates of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 were digested with four different restriction enzymes (EcoRI, HindIII, PstI, and PvuII), separated in 0.8% agarose gel (see page 3180, left column), and analyzed for restriction fragment length polymorphisms on Southern blots probed with bacteriophage lambda DNA (see Figures 1 and 2). The isolates analyzed included strains from a recent large multistate outbreak of *E. coli* O157:H7 infection associated with consumption of poorly cooked beef in restaurants, a day-care center cluster, and temporally and geographically unrelated isolates. *E. coli* O157:H7 isolates recovered from the incriminated meat (considered as known microorganisms) and from 61 of 63 patients ((considered as microorganisms from biological samples) from Washington and Nevada possessed identical lambda restriction fragment length patterns. The lambda restriction fragment length polymorphisms observed in 11 of 12 day-care center patients were identical, but they differed from that of the strain associated with the multistate outbreak. *E. coli* O157:H7 from 42 patients temporally or geographically unrelated

Art Unit: 1655

to either cluster of infection possessed 39 unique and different lambda restriction fragment length patterns (see abstract in page 3179 and left column in page 3182).

Samadpour *et al.*, do not teach the isolation of bacteria genomic DNA involving a step of pelleting bacteria using centrifugation as described in claims 83.

Pitcher *et al.*, do teach the isolation of bacteria genomic DNA involving a step of pelleting bacteria using centrifugation (see above).

Therefore, in the absence of an unexpected result, it would have been *prima facie* obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have isolated bacteria genomic DNA from a biological sample and compared the restriction maps between bacteria genomic DNA from a biological sample and known bacteria as suggested by Samadpour *et al.*, wherein isolation of bacteria genomic DNA involved a step of pelleting bacteria using centrifugation as suggested by Pitcher *et al.*. One having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made has been motivated to modify the method of Samadpour *et al.*, and combined above methods together because the simple substitution of one DNA isolation method (the method from Samadpour *et al.*, without pelleting bacteria using centrifugation) from another DNA isolation method (the method from Pitcher *et al.*, with pelleting bacteria using centrifugation) during the process of determining the identity of a bacteria in a biological sample would have been, in the absence of an unexpected result, *prima facie* obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

Furthermore, the motivation to make the substitution cited above arises from the expectation that the prior art elements will perform their expected functions to achieve their

Art Unit: 1655

expected results when combined for their common known purpose. Support for making the obviousness rejection comes from the M.P.E.P. at 2144.07 and 2144.09.

Also note that there is no invention involved in combining old elements in such a manner that these elements perform in combination the same function as set forth in the prior art without giving unobvious or unexpected results. *In re Rose* 220 F.2d. 459, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955).

14. Claim 92 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pitcher *et al.*, (1989) as applied to claim 83 above, and further in view of Lanoil *et al.*, (Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 63, 1118-1123, March 1997) and Burgoune (US Patent No. 5,756,126, filed on June 7, 1995).

The teaching of Pitcher *et al.*, have been summarized previously, *supra*.

Pitcher *et al.*, do not disclose staining extracted bacteria genomic DNA and immobilizing the DNA on a solid support.

Lanoil *et al.*, do teach to label bacteria genomic DNA with fluorescence (see abstract in page 1118 and right column in page 1119).

Burgoune do teach to immobilize genomic DNA from bacteria on a solid support, digest immobilized genomic DNA with a restriction enzyme, and run digested DNA by gel electrophoresis (columns 5, 20 and 21, and Figure 3).

Therefore, in the absence of an unexpected result, it would have been *prima facie* obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have immobilized fluorescence labeled bacteria genomic DNA on a solid support, digest immobilized genomic DNA

Art Unit: 1655

with a restriction enzyme, and run digested DNA by gel electrophoresis as suggested by Lanoil *et al.*, and Burgoune. One having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made has been motivated to modify the method of Pitcher *et al.*, and combined above methods together because the simple substitution of one DNA digestion method (digestion DNA in a solution) from another DNA digestion method (digestion DNA on a solid support) and the simple substitution of one kind of immobilized genomic DNA (unlabeled DNA) from another kind of immobilized genomic DNA (fluorescence labeled DNA) during the process of determining a restriction enzyme map of a bacteria would have been, in the absence of an unexpected result, *prima facie* obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

Furthermore, the motivation to make the substitution cited above arises from the expectation that the prior art elements will perform their expected functions to achieve their expected results when combined for their common known purpose. Support for making the obviousness rejection comes from the M.P.E.P. at 2144.07 and 2144.09.

Also note that there is no invention involved in combining old elements in such a manner that these elements perform in combination the same function as set forth in the prior art without giving unobvious or unexpected results. *In re Rose* 220 F.2d. 459, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955).

Conclusion

15. No claim is allowed.

16. Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Group 1600 via the PTO Fax Center located in Crystal

Art Unit: 1655

Mall 1. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notices published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1988), 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993), and 1157 OG 94 (December 28, 1993)(See 37 CAR § 1.6(d)). The CM Fax Center number is either (703) 308-4242 or (703)305-3014.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Frank Lu, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (703) 305-1270. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, W. Gary Jones, can be reached on (703) 308-1152.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Chemical Matrix receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Frank Lu
June 26, 2001

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ethan Whisenant', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ethan Whisenant, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner (FSA)